

Application Serial No. 10/615,899
Reply to office action of September 22, 2006

PATENT
Docket: CU-3282

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 11 and 12 are pending in this application and were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent number 6,635,569 to Ameen et al., hereafter referred to as "the Ameen reference."

After carefully considering the Ameen reference as well as the claimed subject matter, each of claims 1, 11 and 12 have been amended to recite that the residuals removed from a reaction chamber are chlorine-containing gases. Moreover, the residuals are claimed as being removed by a plasma that "consists essentially of" hydrogen, nitrogen and argon in claim 1; essentially hydrogen and nitrogen in claim 11; and essentially of nitrogen, hydrogen and argon and nitrogen in claim 12.

The Applicant believes that the amendments to claims 1, 11 and 12 traverse the rejection and that the claims are in condition for allowance because the references cited by the Examiner do not show or suggest the subject matter encompassed by the amended claims. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is therefore respectfully requested.

Yours truly,

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Joseph P. Krause Reg. No. 32,578
Ladas & Parry LLP
224 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 427-1300